

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (“Agency”) Board of Directors (“Board”) will hold a **Regular Board Meeting at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at the City of San Buenaventura City Hall, Santa Cruz Meeting Room, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001**

*****NOTE THE CHANGE IN MEETING LOCATION*****

ON-LINE / TELECONFERENCE ACCESS FOR REMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

DIAL-IN: 1-669-900-6833

JOIN BY COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82056088272?pwd=GhSxVenjMmaO83ARAHW1rTbooxslkt.1>

Meeting ID: 820 5608 8272 Passcode: 772566

Disclaimer Concerning On-line / Teleconference Meeting Access

Audio / teleconference meeting access is not required by law but is provided as a convenience for UVRGA stakeholders and the public. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, users may experience significant difficulties hearing or seeing the meeting when attending remotely. UVRGA does guarantee the audio or video quality of the on-line / teleconference system, and its use is at your own risk.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

February 12, 2026

- 1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

5. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

The Board will receive public comments on items not appearing on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency. The Board will not enter into a detailed discussion or take any action on any items presented during public comments. Such items may only be referred to the Executive Director or other staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda for discussion. Persons wishing to speak on specific agenda items should do so at the time specified for those items. In accordance with Government Code §54954.3(b)(1), public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member pulls an item from the Calendar. Pulled items will be discussed and acted on separately by the Board. Members of the public who want to comment on a Consent Calendar item should do so under Public Comments.

- a. Approve Minutes of January 8, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**
- b. Approve Financial Report for January 2026**
- c. Approve Fiscal Year 2025-2026 2nd Quarter Budget Report**

7. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Directors may provide oral reports on items not appearing on the agenda.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board will receive an update from the Executive Director concerning Agency matters and correspondence. The Board may provide feedback to staff.

9. AGENCY COUNSEL'S REPORT

The Board will receive a verbal update from Agency Counsel concerning Agency matters. The Board may provide feedback to Agency Counsel.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

11. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendments to Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5)

The Board will open a PUBLIC HEARING to discuss proposed amendments to the Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance posted on the Agency's website at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Draft-Ord.-5-for-posting-2-5-26.pdf>.

The Board welcomes public comment and testimony regarding the proposed ordinance.

After receiving public comment and testimony, the Board will close the PUBLIC HEARING and will conduct a first reading in title only of the ordinance and set a date for a public hearing to consider adoption of the ordinance.

b. GSP Periodic Evaluation Update

The Board will receive an update on the GSP periodic evaluation and may provide feedback to staff.

c. Field Monitoring Programs Update

The Board will receive a presentation concerning results from the water year 2024/2025 field monitoring programs and the three year review of the aquatic GDE monitoring program. The Board may provide feedback to staff concerning the monitoring programs.

d. Indirect Depletion Modeling Approach

The Board will review a proposed approach to assessing the relationship between timing and location of groundwater pumping and indirect depletions of interconnected surface water. The Board may provide feedback to staff.

e. Technical Review of Watershed Party Proposals to Ensure Consistency With GSP

The Board will consider authorizing the Executive Director to perform technical review of Watershed party proposals to ensure consistency with the GSP.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

This is an opportunity for the Directors to request items for future agendas.

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

1. Conference with Legal Counsel; Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(4))

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

13. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Civil Penalty Accrual Rate for Remaining Unregistered Wells

The Board will consider increasing the civil penalty accrual rate for two remaining unregistered water wells.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Board meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2026.

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the Agency's services, programs, or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda materials in an alternative format, please contact the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Executive Director at (805) 212-0484. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Agency to make appropriate arrangements.

**UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 8, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency was held at the Ventura River Water District Meeting Room, 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, CA on Thursday, January 8, 2026. Chair Kaiser called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Palmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Executive Director Bondy called the roll.

Directors Present:

Pete Kaiser, Chair

Bruce Kuebler, Vice Chair

Jim Kentosh, Secretary (departed at 2:51 p.m. during Item 11b)

Emily Ayala, Director

Jennifer Tribo, Director

Jeff Palmer, Director

Vivon Sedgwick, Director

Justin Martinez, Alternate Director (replaced Director Kentosh at 2:51 p.m. during Item 11b)

Non-Voting Directors / Alternate Directors Present:

Earthea Nance, Alternate Director

Staff Present:

Bryan Bondy, Executive Director

Keth Lemieux, Agency Counsel

Maureen Tucker, Admin Assistant

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Kaiser asked for any proposed changes to the agenda. No changes were requested.

Director Palmer moved agenda approval. Seconded by Director Kuebler.

Roll Call Vote: P. Kaiser- Y J. Tribo-Y B. Kuebler – Y J. Palmer-Y

 J. Kentosh- Y V. Sedgwick – Y E. Ayala -Y

Directors Absent: none

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

Chair Kaiser asked for public comments on items not appearing on the agenda. No comments were offered.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) Approve Minutes of October 9, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- b) Approve Financial Report for October 2025
- c) Approve Financial Report for November 2025
- d) Approve Financial Report for December 2025
- e) Approve Fiscal Year 2025-2-26 1st Quarter Budget Report
- f) Approve Fiscal Year 2025-2026 1st Quarter Investment Report
- g) Approve Bondy Groundwater Consulting Rate Increase Per Existing Contract

Chair Kaiser asked if any Director wanted to pull any items off the consent calendar for discussion. No requests were made.

Director Ayala moved approval of the consent calendar items. Seconded by Director Kuebler.

Roll Call Vote: P. Kaiser- Y J. Tribo-Y B. Kuebler – Y J. Palmer-Y
 J. Kentosh- Y V. Sedgwick – Y E. Ayala -Y

Directors Absent: none

7. DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Kaiser called for Director announcements. Director Sedgwick provided an update on Arundo removal. Director Kuebler described comments he made on the Ventura River watershed resiliency plan.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report with the Board concerning updates on Agency activities since the last meeting.

Director Kuebler asked about the indirect depletion estimate updates. Executive Director Bondy said that work is in progress.

Director Sedgwick asked how many Small GSA coalition members there are and where they are located. Executive Director Bondy stated around a dozen and most are in northern California.

Director Palmer asked how many small GSAs exist statewide. Executive Director Bondy said there are approximately thirty.

No Public Comments.

9. AGENCY COUNSEL'S REPORT

Agency Counsel Lemieux said there is no report on the adjudication.

He also reported a conversation he had with Casitas's legal counsel about the JPA Amendments, who asked about the conflict of interest section even though that section is not being amended. He explained that the JPA language goes beyond what is required in conflict of interest laws. Nothing needs to be done at this time but wanted the Board to be aware that there was extra language addressing situations where a member agency is involved in a lawsuit that involves the Agency.

He also reported that the City of Ventura made a request the Agency for its numerical model. He reviewed the request and advise the Executive Director that the model files are subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act and the Executive Director produced the files. Chair Kaiser expressed concerns about the model being a draft and requested consultation for future records requests. Executive Director Bondy noted that the model files requested were part of a published report and that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act has requirements in addition to the Public Records Act concerning public accessibility of models.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Agency Officer Appointment

The Board discusses the appointment of officers.

Director Kuebler nominated Jenny Tribo for Chair. Director Sedgwick seconded the motion.

Director Kaiser nominated for Director Palmer. Director Palmer declined the nomination.

Roll Call Vote:	P. Kaiser- Y	J. Tribo-Y	B. Kuebler – Y	J. Palmer-Y
	J. Kentosh- Y	V. Sedgwick – Y	E. Ayala -Y	

Directors Absent: none

Agency Counsel stated that Director Tribo is now the Chair and should take over the meeting.

Chair Tribo asked for nominees for Vice-Chair.

Director Kentosh nominated Director Kuebler. No other nominations were made.

Director Palmer seconded the nomination.

Roll Call Vote:	P. Kaiser- Y	J. Tribo-Y	B. Kuebler – Y	J. Palmer-Y
	J. Kentosh- Y	V. Sedgwick – Y	E. Ayala -Y	

Directors Absent: none

Chair Tribo asked for nominees for Secretary.

Director Kaiser nominated Director Kentosh. Director Kentosh asked how much work is involved. Director Jenny Tribo said very little. Director Kuebler seconded the nomination.

Roll Call Vote: P. Kaiser- Y J. Tribo-Y B. Kuebler – Y J. Palmer-Y
J. Kentosh- Y V. Sedgwick – Y E. Ayala -Y

Directors Absent: none

b. 2026 Regular Board Meeting Schedule

The Board discussed keeping the current regular meeting schedule for calendar year 2026.

Director Kuebler moved adoption of the regular current meeting schedule for calendar year 2026 (i.e., second Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m.). Director Ayala seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: P. Kaiser- Y J. Tribo-Y B. Kuebler – Y J. Palmer-Y
J. Kentosh- Y V. Sedgwick – Y E. Ayala -Y

Directors Absent: none

11. GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS

a. Review of Ordinance No. 4 Flowmeter Accuracy Testing Requirements

Executive Director Bondy explained that now that almost all of the wells have been registered and the Agency understands the distribution of groundwater pumping it is a good time to review the Agency's Ordinance provisions for flowmeter accuracy testing, particularly considering a recent accuracy testing exemption request by a small groundwater pumper.

Executive Director Bondy reminded the Board that wells pumping less than two acre-feet per year (AFY) of groundwater are exempt from the flowmeter installation and accuracy requirements. He explained that there are 22 wells that pump more than 2 AFY that are required to maintain a flowmeter and demonstrate accuracy.

Wells that pump more than 100 AFY are required to demonstrate flowmeter accuracy every three years. Six wells fall into this group and collectively account for 94% of the basin extractions.

Wells that pump between 2 and 100AFY are required to demonstrate flowmeter accuracy every five years. Sixteen wells fall in this group and collective account for the remaining 6% of basin extractions.

Within this group, eleven wells are pumping between 2 and 10 AFY and account for 1% of the basin extractions. A twelfth well pumps between 10-25 AFY and accounts for another 0.3% of

basin extractions. Given the small quantity of pumping and small impact on basin management, he recommends amending the Agency's Ordinance to remove the requirement for flowmeter accuracy testing for these wells. The idea is that flowmeters and reporting of extractions would still be required but that accuracy testing would only be required if something appears off.

The Board discussed the breakdown of wells and annual extraction volumes provided in the staff report and the pros and cons of continuing to require flowmeter accuracy testing on a five year frequency for wells that pump small quantities of groundwater.

Director Palmer asked about the cost for accuracy testing. Executive Director Bondy said the cost is approximately \$300. He does not want to burden small pumpers.

Director Kaiser asked about the allowable meters errors. Executive Director Bondy said the Ordinance requires +/-5%.

Director Ayala shared her experience having recently gone through the accuracy testing process.

Director Kentosh stated he agrees with Executive Director Bondy logic.

Director Martinez asked if meter tampering is possible. Executive Director Bondy said that the reported pumping appears reasonable based on the information he has about the properties.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that the Board will consider amending the Agency's Ordinance to make the calibration frequency five years for wells pumping 25 to 100 AFY and 10 years for wells pumping less than 25 AFY. The Board also asked staff to add flexibility to extending deadlines or make exemptions to limit the frequency of ordinance amendments.

b. GSP Periodic Evaluation Update

Executive Director Bondy provided the Board an update on the GSP periodic evaluation. Work began in late 2025. Work on the GSP periodic evaluation is ongoing.

Executive Director Bondy provide walked the Board through updated projections of future groundwater pumping for the basin. The updated projects are based on input provided by the public agency pumpers, which pump the vast majority of the groundwater. Private well pumping was updated based on information obtained from well registrations and pumping reported to the Agency pursuant to the Agency's Ordinance. Overall, future pumping is projected to be 6% less compared to the projections included in the GSP. Chair Tribo and Vice Chair Kuebler question the City of Ventura and Ventura River Water District values. Executive Director Bondy will revisit the numbers with them after the meeting.

Executive Director Bondy recommended scheduling a workshop for the GSP evaluation in February. He suggested scheduling it for the 4th Thursday because the Board has used that date in the past for special meetings. After checking schedules, the Board concurred.

Executive Director Bondy explained that the City of Ventura's recent request for the UVRGA numerical model files calls into question whether or how far/quicky UVRGA should proceed with the remaining work contemplated in the GSP for ISW indirect depletions. Given the numerical model files request, it seems plausible that the City and/or other parties may be performing modeling and other analysis that could be duplicative of the work contemplated in the GSP for ISW indirect depletions. Ideally, UVRGA would participate in any technical analysis or

development of any approaches that are intended to address ISW indirect depletions under the SGMA, but this has not happened to date.

Barring clarification from the adjudication parties concerning their intentions, he recommends UVRGA complete the indirect depletion estimates updated but hold off initiating the process to develop projects or management actions, pending more information from the adjudication process. Updating the indirect depletion estimates will help with addressing Department of Water Resources recommended corrective actions for the GSP. In contrast, the remaining tasks contemplated may involve work that is already being completed or is planned to be completed by the adjudication parties, which could result in unnecessary expenditures by UVRGA and other potential issues. If the adjudication parties are indeed working on or planning to work on potential projects or management actions that are intended address indirect depletions of ISW under SGMA, it would be more efficient for UVRGA to analyze/review the adjudication parties proposal(s) prior to solidify agreement or presenting to the Court. The Board discussed whether to postpone or slow down work.

Director Kentosh said he supports slowing down or postponing for six months or a year. He left at 2:51 p.m. Alternate Director Martinez filled in for Director Kentosh for the remainder of the meeting.

It was noted that process to develop projects or management actions would begin with additional modeling to develop a quantitative understanding of the relationships between the quantity, timing, and location of groundwater pumping and indirect depletion of interconnected surface water. There was general consensus that this modeling work should move forward. The Board discussed having an item on the next meeting agenda to review the approach to this modeling work.

c. Stakeholder Engagement Plan Review and Update

Executive Director Bondy provided a summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Plant (SEP) to the Board. The SEP includes a requirement to review and update every five years or as needed. The SEP was last updated in 2022. Executive Director Bondy identified several updates that would be appropriate to make for the GSP evaluation process.

The Board discussed the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and requested small changes. Executive Director will work with Director Sedgwick on language to add concerning recreation and environmental beneficial uses.

Director Sedgwick will provide the Executive Director with a new contact for the tribe.

Director Sedgwick moved adoption of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan update with the forthcoming language to be added concerning recreation and environmental beneficial uses. Director Kuebler seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:	P. Kaiser – Y	B. Kuebler – Y	J. Martinez – Y	V. Sedgwick – Y
	J. Tribo – Y	J. Palmer – Y	E. Ayala – Y	

Directors Absent: none

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Indirect depletion modeling approach.
- b. Annual data presentation.
- c. First reading of ordinance amendment.

CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

The Board went into closed session at 3:06 p.m. Conference with Legal Counsel; Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)).

The Board went back into open session at 3:34 p.m.

Agency Counsel reported that there was no reportable action taken in closed session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting is Thursday, February 12, 2026.

Action:_____

Motion:_____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler _ J. Tribo _ J. Palmer _ E. Ayala _ V. Sedgwick _ J. Kentosh _

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 6(b)

DATE: February 5, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Carrie Troup C.P.A., Treasurer
SUBJECT: Approve Financial Report for January 2026

December 2025 UVRGA Balance \$ 220,505.39

January 2026 Activity

Revenues/ Credits:

Extraction Fees	\$ 602.84
Total Revenues/Credits	<u>\$ 602.84</u>

Checks, Electronic payments, Transfers:

2687	Bondy Groundwater Consulting, Inc.	December Services	\$ 5,836.07
2688	Intera Incorporated	November Services	\$ 771.00
2689	Intera Incorporated	November Services	\$ 3,881.50
2690	Intera Incorporated	November Services	\$ 357.00
2691	Intera Incorporated	December Services	\$ 3,212.00
2692	Intera Incorporated	December Services	\$ 672.50
2693	Intera Incorporated	December Services	\$ 595.00
2694	Carrie Troup, CPA	December Services	\$ 2,327.46
2695	Rincon Consultants, Inc.	December Services	\$ 13,014.00
2696	Rincon Consultants, Inc.	December Services	\$ 1,835.00
2697	Rincon Consultants, Inc.	November Services	\$ 3,143.00
2698	Rincon Consultants, Inc.	December Services	\$ 7,470.28
EFT	GoDaddy.com	Domain Renewal 2 years	\$ 112.36
EFT	GoDaddy.com	Hosting- 1 year	\$ 227.64
EFT	FedEx	Shipping	\$ 39.35
EFT	DropBox	Annual Subscription	\$ 119.88
Total Expenditures Paid & To Be Paid			<u>\$ 43,614.04</u>

January 2026 UVRGA Total Funds Ending Balance¹

Ventura County Treasury Investment Pool (VCTIP)	\$ 676,879.42
Bank of Sierra	<u>\$ 177,494.19</u>
Total Cash Balance	<u><u>\$ 854,373.61</u></u>

Notes:

The financial report omits substantially all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; no assurance is provided on them.

VCTIP balance reflects most recent Fair Market Value adjustment released by the County of Ventura

Action: _____

Motion: _____ Second: _____

B. Kuebler___ J. Palmer___ J. Kentosh___ P. Kaiser___ J. Tribo___ V. Sedgwick___ E. Ayala___

Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July through December 2025

	Jul - Dec 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Comments
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Interest/Penalties	52.77				
43000 · Groundwater Extraction Fee	644,952.00	338,964.00	-32,976.00	95.14%	Member Agencies are billed upfront for entire year.
Total Income	645,004.77	338,964.00	-32,923.23	95.14%	
Expense					
55000 · Administrative Exp					
55011 · Computer Maintenance	1,367.28	0.00	1,367.28	N/A	Annual email charges, s/b booked to 58015
55015 · Postage & Shipping	291.43	375.00	-458.57	38.86%	
55020 · Office Supplies & Software	396.55	500.00	-603.45	39.66%	
55025 · Minor Equipment	0.00	250.00	-500.00	0.0%	
55030 · Bank Service Charges	27.50	50.00	-72.50	27.5%	
55035 · Advertising and Promotion	0.00	750.00	-1,500.00	0.0%	
55055 · Insurance Expense-SDRMA	4,975.27	2,461.00	53.27	101.08%	Insurance is paid once per year.
55060 · Memberships-CSDA	1,374.50	1,081.50	-788.50	63.55%	CSDA dues are paid once per year.
55070 · Memberships- VRWC	0.00	2,578.00	-5,156.00	0.0%	
Total 55000 · Administrative Exp	8,432.53	8,045.50	-7,658.47	52.41%	
58000 · Professional Fees					
58005 · Executive Director /GSP Manager	17,575.89	25,000.00	-32,424.11	35.15%	
58010 · Legal Fees	22,215.12	25,000.00	-27,784.88	44.43%	
58015 · Website	199.99	1,500.00	-2,800.01	6.67%	
58020 · Accounting	9,630.25	12,500.00	-15,369.75	38.52%	
58040 · Audit Expense	632.68	8,250.00	-15,867.32	3.83%	Audit switched to biennial.
58050 · Other Professional Services	183,170.58	294,225.00	-405,279.42	31.13%	
Total 58000 · Professional Fees	233,424.51	366,475.00	-499,525.49	31.85%	
Total Expense	241,857.04	374,520.50	-507,183.96	32.29%	Expenses are higher in second half of FY.
Net Ordinary Income	403,147.73	-35,556.50	474,260.73	-566.91%	
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
Unrealized Gain/Loss Invstmnt	6,136.08				
Total Other Income	6,136.08				
Other Expense					
Contingency - Non Capital Exp	0.00	74,904.00	-74,904.00	0.0%	
Total Other Expense	0.00	74,904.00	-74,904.00	0.0%	
Net Other Income	6,136.08	-74,904.00	81,040.08	-8.19%	
Net Income	409,283.81	-110,460.50	555,300.81	-280.3%	

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 8

DATE: February 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

SUMMARY

The following are updates on Agency matters since the last Board meeting:

1. Administrative:

- a. As a reminder, Form 700 filings are due April 1. Directors and alternate directors file with FPPC (<https://form700.fppc.ca.gov/>), legal counsel files with Ventura County (<https://cobpublic.venturacounty.gov/eDisclosure/>), and the executive director and treasurer file with both agencies.

2. Financial:

- a. Groundwater Extraction Fees: Extraction fee invoices were sent to private well owners for the July - December semiannual period. Payments are due on February 15. Private well groundwater extractions totaled 113.90 acre-feet (AF), compared with the budget assumption of 197 AF for the entirety of fiscal year 25/26.

3. GSP Implementation:

- a. GSP Periodic Evaluation: Please see Item No. 11(b).
- b. Well Registration and Flowmeter Compliance:
 - i. Two wells remain unregistered and continue to accrue civil penalties at \$100/day. As of January 31, 2026 each well owner has accrued \$37,500 in civil penalties. Please see Item No. 12(a) for further information.
 - ii. The Executive Director issued a notice of violation to the owner of well 04N23W32C02S for the lack of a flowmeter, which was lost during the January 2023 flood. The well owner has been paying extraction fees based on estimated pumping while working on flowmeter replacement. The well owner replied that the well was damaged again during the late 2025 storms and is now inoperable. The well is offline pending repairs, and the owner understands that they must install a flowmeter before resuming operation.
- c. Monitoring Networks: No field activity due to elevated streamflow conditions. Annual data memoranda and the three-year aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystems monitoring review memorandum were finalized and posted to the UVRGA website at: <https://uvrgroundwater.org/library/>.

4. Outreach and Coordination:

- a. Ventura County Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project (MDERP): The Executive Director followed up with Ventura County Public Works Agency (VCPWA) concerning incorporation of protections for the two groundwater monitoring wells located on the Live Oak Acres Levee during the planned levee improvements project. VCPWA staff indicated that it is not feasible to protect the wells in place and that the wells will be replaced following construction with grant funding.
- b. Ventura River Watershed Council (VRWC) / Ventura River Watershed Resilience Program (VRWRP):
 - i. The Executive Director engaged with the VRWRP authors during their on-line “office hours” on January 23. The Executive Director expressed concerns about the characterization of groundwater conditions that conflicts with the UVRGA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and the large divergence between the characterization of climate change impacts in the VRWRP text compared with climate change analysis in the UVRGA GSP, which was based on climate change data provided by the State of California Department of Water Resources.
 - ii. A VRWRP forum was held on February 4, 2026 to review adaptation strategies. The Executive Director did not attend.

5. Small GSA Coalition:

- a. The coalition met on January 15 and February 5, 2026 to continue 2026 planning.

6. Correspondence: None.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive an update from the Executive Director concerning Agency matters and correspondence.
Provide feedback to staff.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler _ E. Ayala _ V. Sedgwick _ J. Tribo _ J. Kentosh _ J. Palmer _

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 11(a)

DATE: February 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5)

SUMMARY

During its January 2026 meeting, the Board of Directors discussed amending the Agency's Ordinance (currently Ordinance No. 4) to make certain changes to the flowmeter accuracy testing periods, add flexibility for extending deadlines, and provide flexibility to make exemptions on a case-by-case basis. The goal of the amendments would be to (1) reduce the burden of flowmeter accuracy testing on owners of wells that pump small quantities of groundwater and (2) reduce the need for future ordinance amendments.

The Executive Director worked with Agency Counsel to prepare proposed ordinance amendments in the form of Draft Ordinance No. 5, which is intended to replace Ordinance No. 4 in its entirety (Attachment A).

The following is a summary of the proposed changes:

- Recitals: History of ordinance amendments updated to reflect the proposed amendment.
- Section 2.1 – Well Registration: Paragraph added to provide the Executive Director the discretion to wave well registration requirements on a case-by-case basis.
- Section 3.1 Flowmeters: Flowmeter accuracy testing frequencies are changed to five years for wells pumping 25 to 100 acre-feet per year (AFY) and 10 years for wells pumping less than 25 AFY. Language was also added to provide the Board with the ability to extend these deadlines without amending the ordinance.
- Section 7 – Waivers: Section 7 was added to provide the Board with the flexibility to waive any provision of the ordinance on a case-by-case basis without amending the ordinance.

The purpose of this item is to conduct a public hearing and first reading of the ordinance amendment.

UVRGA, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), in consultation with the Agency's Legal Counsel, determined that the charges adopted by resolution are exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, sections 15307 and 15308 which exempt actions taken for the protection of natural resources and the environment.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Conduct a public hearing to discuss proposed Ordinance No. 5 posted on the Agency's website (<https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Draft-Ord.-5-for-posting-2-5-26.pdf>).
2. Conduct a first reading in title only of the ordinance and set a date for a public hearing to consider adoption of the ordinance.

BACKGROUND

The Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance was adopted on July 14, 2022 (Ordinance No. 1) and was last amended on November 14, 2024 (Ordinance No. 4).

FISCAL SUMMARY

Proposed Ordinance No.5 will reduce Agency administrative costs by simplifying flowmeter accuracy requirements providing flexibility in enforcement of ordinance provisions.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance (Ordinance No. 5)

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler_ E. Ayala_ V. Sedgwick_ J. Tribo _ J. Kentosh_ J. Palmer_

Item 11(a), 2 of 2

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY

ORDINANCE NO. 54

AN ORDINANCE OF

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY
REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 41 ESTABLISHING WELL REGISTRATION, METERING,
AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency ("Agency") was formed for the express purpose of cooperatively carrying out the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA"), including, but not limited to, the funding, development, adoption and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") that achieves groundwater sustainability in the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin.

WHEREAS, the Agency is the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin 4-3.01).

WHEREAS, the Agency adopted the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin on January 6, 2022.

WHEREAS, a fundamental component of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin is the accurate measurement, reporting and monitoring of groundwater extractions and, with the exception of certain extraction facilities, SGMA provides the Agency with the express power to require the metering of all extraction facilities in the Basin.

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2022, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 1 establishing, among other things, a requirement that, prior to extracting groundwater, a well operator install a flow meter unless such well was exempt pursuant to Water Code Section 10721(e).

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2023, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 2 to amend Ordinance No. 1 to repeal and replace Chapter 2.0 (Registration of Wells and Levying of Charges) to be consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N-7-22.

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2023, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 3 to amend Section 1.10 of Chapter 1 of Ordinance No. 1 to add definitions to exempt small non-domestic wells from the flowmeter requirements.

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2024, the Agency adopted Ordinance No. 4 to repeal and replace Ordinance No. 1 in its entirety, in order to add and clarify the remedies available to violations of the Ordinance.

WHEREAS, ~~in order to make~~ further revisions to Ordinance No. 41 related to flowmeter accuracy testing requirements and the provision of flexibility for granting of exceptions to certain provisions

are required, and thus to add and clarify remedies for the Agency related to violations of the Ordinance, including the collection of unpaid civil penalties, the Board of Directors of the Agency desires to replace Ordinance No. 41 in its entirety with a new comprehensive ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Agency, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), in consultation with the Agency’s Legal Counsel, determined that the charges adopted by resolution are exempt from further CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, sections 15307 and 15308 which exempt actions taken for the protection of natural resources and the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability Agency that an Ordinance establishing well registration, metering, and reporting requirements should be established pursuant to Water Code Section 10730 as follows:

CHAPTER 1.0

Definitions

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings stated below:

1.1. **“Agency”** means the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.

1.2. **“Agency Boundary”** shall be the Upper Ventura River Valley Groundwater Basin (Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin 4-3.01) as may be modified in accordance with Water Code Section 10722.2.

1.3. **“Agricultural Extraction Facility”** means a facility from which the groundwater produced is used on lands in the production of plant crops or livestock for market and uses incidental thereto.

1.4. **“Annual”** means the water year October 1 through September 30.

1.5. **“Aquifer”** means a geologic formation or structure that yields water in sufficient quantities to supply pumping wells or springs. A confined aquifer is an aquifer with an overlying less permeable or impermeable layer.

1.6. **“Board”** means the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.

1.7. **“County”** means the County of Ventura.

1.8. **“Due Date”** means, unless otherwise specifically provided, is 15 days after the end of each quarter ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 (i.e., April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15).

1.9. **“Executive Director”** means the individual appointed by the Board to administer Agency functions, or his/her designee.

1.10. **“Exempt Wells”** means all wells operated by de minimis extractors as defined in Water Code Section 10721(e), all Small Non-Domestic Wells, and those operators granted an exemption by the Board.

1.11. **“Extraction”** means the act of obtaining groundwater by pumping or other controlled means.

1.12. **“Extraction Facility”** means any device or method (e.g. water well) for extraction of groundwater within a groundwater basin or aquifer.

1.13. **“Flowmeter”** means a manufactured instrument for accurately measuring and recording the flow of water in a pipeline.

1.14. **“Groundwater”** means water beneath the surface of the earth within the zone below the water table in which the soil is completely saturated with water.

1.15. **“Groundwater Extraction Fee”** shall mean fees adopted by the Board of the Agency pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

1.16. **“Inactive Well”** An inactive well is a well that conforms to the County Water Well Ordinance requirements for an active well but is being held in an idle status in case of future need. Idle status means the well is pumped no more than 8 hours during any 12- month period. Inactive wells are not required to have a flowmeter. Pumping to maintain status as an active well under the County Water Well Ordinance shall not exceed 8 hours in a 12-month period, shall be for beneficial use, and shall be estimated and reported to the Agency. Prior to removing a well from idle status, the operator shall install a flowmeter in accordance with the requirements in Chapter 3 of the Ordinance.

1.17. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Provider”** means person who provides water for domestic, industrial, commercial, or fire protection purposes within the Agency Boundary.

1.18. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Operator”** An owner or operator that supplied groundwater for M & I use during the historical allocation period and did not supply a significant amount of agricultural irrigation during the historical period.

1.19. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) User”** means a person or other entity that used or uses water for any purpose other than agricultural irrigation.

1.20. **“Municipal and Industrial (M & I) Use”** means any use other than agricultural irrigation.

1.21. **“Non-Operating Flowmeter”** – A non-operating flowmeter includes a flowmeter that is out of calibration by plus or minus 5%, and/or a flowmeter that has not been calibrated within the flowmeter calibration schedule adopted by the Board.

1.22. **“Operator”** means a person who operates a groundwater extraction facility. In the event the Agency is unable to determine who operates a particular extraction facility, then “operator” shall

mean the person to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the County Assessor, or, if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

1.23. **“Ordinance”** means the present Ordinance, the Well Registration, Metering, and Reporting Ordinance, as adopted by the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency.

1.24. **“Owner”** means a person who owns a groundwater extraction facility. Ownership shall be determined by reference to whom the extraction facility is assessed by the County Assessor, or if not separately assessed, the person who owns the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

1.25. **“Person”** includes any state or local governmental agency, private corporation, firm, partnership, individual, group of individuals, or, to the extent authorized by law, any federal agency.

1.26. **“Resolution”** means a formal statement of a decision adopted by the Board.

1.27. **“Section”** as used in this Ordinance, is a numbered paragraph of a chapter.

1.28. **“Shall”** as used in this Ordinance, is an imperative requirement.

1.29. **“Small Non-Domestic Well”** means any well serving any use other than domestic that extracts less than 2 acre-feet per year of groundwater.

1.30. **“Well Flushing”** means the act of temporarily discharging extracted groundwater through a connection located upstream of the water distribution system at the beginning of an extraction cycle. Well flushing is typically performed until the quality of the extracted water is suitable for beneficial use and/or will not damage the distribution system. In some cases, the flushing flows may be discharged upstream of the distribution system, including the flowmeter. Flushing flows discharged upstream of the flowmeter shall be estimated and reported to the Agency in accordance with the requirements accordance with the requirements in Chapter 2 of this Ordinance.

1.31. **“Well Rehabilitation”** means the act of restoring a well to its most efficient condition by various treatments, development, or reconstruction methods. In most cases, groundwater extracted during well rehabilitation is not discharged through the extraction facility piping and, consequently, is not flow metered. In these cases, the volume of water extracted shall be estimated and reported to the Agency in accordance with the requirements accordance in Chapter 2 of this Ordinance.

CHAPTER 2.0

Registration of Wells and Levying of Charges

2.1. Registration of Wells

2.1.1. Agency Water Well Notice Requirement – All applicants seeking County permit approval for any new extraction facilities constructed within the Agency Boundary shall execute a New Well Acknowledgement form with the Agency prior to submitting a well

permit application the County. The applicant shall be required to provide supplemental information to the Executive Director that is reasonably necessary for compliance with any Governor Executive Orders or statutory requirements that are in effect at the time of application.

2.1.2. Registration Requirement – All groundwater extraction facilities within the boundaries of the Agency shall be registered with the Agency within 30 days of the completion of drilling activities or within 30 days after notice is given to the owner of such facility. No extraction facility may be operated or otherwise utilized so as to extract groundwater within the Agency Boundary unless that facility is registered with the Agency, flow metered and permitted, if required, and all extractions reported to the Agency as required. The owner of an extraction facility shall register his extraction facility and provide in full, the information required to complete the form provided by the Agency that includes the following:

2.1.2.1. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the owner(s) of the land upon which the extraction facility is located.

2.1.2.2. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the well operator(s), if different than owner(s).

2.1.2.3. A description of the equipment associated with the extraction facility.

2.1.2.4. Location, parcel number and state well number of the water extraction facility.

2.1.2.5. Digital photographs showing (1) the well and discharge piping with meter location visible, (2) flowmeter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and legible; and (3) flow meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be date stamped and the file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director.

The Executive Director, at his or her discretion, may waive the registration requirements on a case-by-case basis upon making a determination that an extraction facility has been abandoned, destroyed, or is unlikely to be used to extract more than two acre-feet per year of groundwater. The Executive Director additionally has the authority to request and require the owner of an alleged abandoned, destroyed, or unlikely to be used extraction facility to provide the necessary documentation or information to make such a determination.

- 2.2. Change in Owner or Operator** - The name of the owner of each extraction facility, the parcel number on which the well is located along with the names of all operators for each extraction facility shall be reported to the Agency within 30 days upon any change of ownership or operators, together with such other information required by the Executive Director.

- 2.3. Reporting Extractions** - Except for extractions from Exempt Wells, all extractions shall be flowmetered in accordance with the requirements specified in Chapter 3 and reported to the Agency. Extractions shall be reported to the Agency by submitting date stamped digital photographs of the well flowmeter on a quarterly basis. The digital photographs shall be taken on March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 plus or minus five business days and submitted to the Agency by the Due Date, as defined in Section 1.8 of Chapter 1. Each digital photograph shall show the entire meter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and legible. The digital photograph file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photograph(s) shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director. Additional information necessary to determine extractions shall be submitted upon request of the Executive Director. Alternative extraction reporting methods may be approved by the Executive Director.

CHAPTER 3.0

Installation and Use of Flowmeters for Groundwater Extraction Facilities

3.1. Installation and Use of Flowmeters

- 3.1.1. Installation Requirement – Prior to extracting groundwater, the operator shall install a flowmeter. With the exception of connections used for well flushing and extraction facilities used by multiple operators, flowmeters shall be installed upstream of all connections to the main discharge line. Flowmetering is not required during well flushing and well rehabilitation; however, the volume of water extracted shall be estimated and reported to the Agency. Flowmeters are not required on Inactive Wells and Exempt Wells as defined in this Ordinance. Well operators are required to install flowmeters on wells and provide proof of calibration within a range of plus or minus 5% by June 30, 2023. Proof of calibration shall be less than three years old for extraction facilities extracting 100 or more acre-feet per year, ~~and less than five years old for extraction facilities extracting between 25 and less than 100 acre-feet per year, and less than 10 years old for extraction facilities extracting less than 25 acre-feet per year.~~

The Board may, at its own discretion, by resolution, extend the proof of calibration deadline discussed above.

- 3.1.2. Flowmeter Failure and Back-up Measurement Requirements - Flowmeter Failure and Back-up Measurement Requirements - Flowmeters occasionally fail, losing periods of record before the disabled or inaccurate meter is either replaced or repaired. When a flowmeter fails, the operator shall repair or replace the flowmeter within the timeframe specified in this Ordinance. Flowmeter failures and associated repairs or replacements shall be reported to the Agency together with any other information required by the Executive Director on or before the Due Date. Well operators shall be prepared to provide another acceptable method of computing

extractions during these periods of flowmeter failure to avoid the loss of record on wells that require flowmetering under this Ordinance.

- 3.1.3. Back-up Methods - It is the operator's responsibility to maintain the flowmeter. Any allowable or acceptable backup measurement methods may be changed as technology improves or changes.
- 3.1.4. Flowmeter Readings - Functional flowmeters shall be digitally photographed and reported quarterly in accordance with Section 2.3.
- 3.1.5. Inspection of Flowmeters - The Agency may inspect flowmeter installations for compliance with this Ordinance at any reasonable time.
- 3.2. **Flowmeter Testing and Calibration** - All flowmeters shall be tested for accuracy at a frequency interval determined by the Board to meet specific measurement standards. Calibration methods and procedures approved by the Board as detailed in this Ordinance. Initial proof of calibration shall be provided prior to June 30, 2023.
- 3.3. **Altering Flowmeters** - Any person who alters, removes, resets, adjusts, manipulates, obstructs, or in any manner interferes or tampers with any flowmeter affixed to any groundwater extraction facility required by this Ordinance, resulting in said flowmeter to improperly or inaccurately measure and record groundwater extractions, is guilty of an intentional violation of this Ordinance and will be subject to any and all penalties as described in Chapter 7.
- 3.4. **Costs of Testing and Calibration** - All costs incurred with flowmeter testing or calibration shall be the personal obligation of the well owner. Non-compliance with any provision of the flowmeter calibration requirements will subject the owner to financial penalties and/or liens as described below or in Chapter 7 of this Ordinance.

CHAPTER 4

Flowmeter Testing and Calibration Requirements

4.1 General Procedures

- 4.1.1. All groundwater extraction flowmeters shall be tested for accuracy within a range of plus or minus 5% as follows:
 - Groundwater Extraction Facilities Extracting 100 or More Acre-Feet Per Year: No less than once every three years.
 - Groundwater Extraction Facilities Extracting Less Than 100 Acre-Feet Per Year: No less than once every five years.

- 4.1.2. Written certification of water meter accuracy by a qualified flowmeter testing company or person approved pursuant to section 4.7 shall be submitted within 30-days following any accuracy test or
- 4.1.3. If there is an indication that a flowmeter has been tampered with, the operator shall promptly report this to the Agency and the meter shall be retested and proof of flowmeter accuracy submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the discovery of the tampered meter.
- 4.1.4. If a flowmeter on an active well has been removed or destroyed for any reason by any person, whether by the operator, owner, or another person or entity - including, but not limited to, replacement, upgrade, or theft - the operator must notify the Agency of this event within 14 days. In such event, the removed or destroyed flowmeter must be replaced within 30 days, and the new flowmeter tested and proof of flowmeter accuracy submitted to the Agency within 30 days after replacement.
- 4.1.5. The Agency Executive Director, or designee, may, on a showing of good cause, grant additional time to comply with these provisions.

4.2. Approved Methods of Testing and Testing Requirements

- 4.2.1. Method(s) of accuracy testing and calibration shall be determined by the Agency Executive Director, or designee, and may be changed at any time to accommodate technological improvements or better methods.
- 4.2.2. Some flowmeter tests may require a pipe tap or access fitting on either the upstream or downstream side of the well flowmeter, or both. If such portals are not available, the well operator or owner shall provide them at his or her own expense.
- 4.2.3. In cases where more than one flowmeter is utilized to measure groundwater extractions, every flowmeter in that well and/or plumbing configuration must be tested and calibrated to required tolerances during the same visit.

4.3 Testing Option Via Southern California Edison (SCE)

- 4.3.1. If the well pump motor is tested for electrical demand efficiency by Southern California Edison (SCE), a copy of the SCE Efficiency Report may be submitted to the Agency in lieu of the required flowmeter calibration report; however, an adequate comparison of the SCE-determined flow measurement against the customer's existing well flowmeter must be provided within the submitted report.
- 4.3.2. If the SCE test results indicate that the flowmeter exceeds the plus or minus 5% accuracy range, the flowmeter must be repaired or replaced and retested per section "4.1.1" above at the owner's expense.

- 4.3.3 Special Note: Failure to obtain passing test results within the Agency-specified time frame due to SCE's workload or backlog schedule is not justification for a time extension request. However, if a letter from SCE confirming a scheduled test date after the Agency specified time frame is submitted to the Agency prior to the required testing time frame, the Agency Executive Director, or designee, may authorize a test date time extension.

4.4 New Flowmeter Installations

- 4.4.1. When any operator or owner installs a new water flowmeter, including a replacement water flowmeter, on the discharge piping of a well, proof of flowmeter accuracy shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the installation date. In addition, digital photographs shall be submitted showing (1) the well and discharge piping with meter location visible, (2) flowmeter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and legible; and (3) flow meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be date stamped and the file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director.

4.5 Required Documentation to Certify Calibration Accuracy Standards

- 4.5.1. Documentation to indicate that existing flowmeters meet accuracy or calibration standards (without flowmeter replacement, repair, or refurbishment) shall be provided to the Agency by submitting a copy of the successful test/calibration results that are provided to the flowmeter owner/operator by either an agency-approved flowmeter tester or SCE, as noted in Section 4.3, above.
- 4.5.2 Documentation that indicates a flowmeter is new and/or has been repaired/refurbished to meet accuracy or calibration standards will be acceptable to the Agency provided the flowmeter was installed per the flowmeter manufacturer's specifications. Acceptable proof shall include name of meter manufacturer; meter serial and model numbers; unit of measure and unit multiplier for the meter; serial number, and that installation meets the manufacturer's specifications; an invoice and/or work order indicating that the flowmeter was installed or repaired/refurbished on a certain date.
- 4.5.3. If the new or refurbished flowmeter was not installed per the flowmeter manufacturer's specifications, the well owner or operator shall obtain a flowmeter test for accuracy, and if necessary, re-calibrate the new or refurbished flowmeter to reflect actual in-place conditions. The passing test results shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of new or refurbished flowmeter installation.
- 4.5.4 Required documentation to certify calibration accuracy standards shall include digital photographs showing (1) the well and discharge piping with meter location visible, (2) flowmeter face with all totalizer digits and flowmeter units visible and

legible; and (3) flow meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be date stamped and the file name shall include the state well number and meter serial number. The digital photographs shall be submitted to the Agency via e-mail or by other electronic method approved by the Executive Director.

4.6. Flowmeter Maintenance Between Required Calibration Testing Intervals

4.6.1. Written notification shall be provided to the Agency at least two (2) weeks prior to any planned maintenance requiring removal and reinstallation of the flowmeter.

4.6.2. If the maintenance does alter the piping diameters or configuration, the flowmeter shall be retested, and if necessary, recalibrated, as per any and all applicable Ordinance requirements.

4.7. Approved Flowmeter Testers - Approved testers are those approved by the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, as designated at their website: <https://fcgma.org/public-documents/forms>, and as amended from time to time.

4.8. Meter Repair or Replacement - Broken or inaccurate flowmeters must be promptly reported to the Agency and repaired or replaced within 30 days of failure, or from the date when non-accurate readings are first noted. Special circumstances may be afforded additional leeway or time to comply with provisions at the discretion of the Executive Director. Proof of flowmeter accuracy of the repaired or replacement meter along with supporting documentation shall be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of the installation date.

4.9. Backup Measurement Methods - When necessary, temporary in-place flowmeters shall be installed to provide back-up water flow measurement. The use of temporary flowmeters shall not exceed 60 days.

4.10. Inspection of Flowmetering Equipment - Agency staff or their designated agents may, at their discretion, inspect flowmetering equipment installations for compliance with this Ordinance at any reasonable time. A minimum of 24-hours' notice will be provided to the well owner or operator prior to any well visit or inspection.

**CHAPTER 5
Penalties**

5.1 Any operator or other person who violates any provision of this Ordinance is subject to the civil penalties set forth in state law and this Ordinance.

5.2. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance may be liable for a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to correct the violation within 30 days of the date that a Notice of Violation was sent by Certified Mail to the violator's last known address. This is in addition to any other penalties that may be

prescribed by law. The amount of the civil penalties for violations of this Ordinance shall be established by action of the Board of Directors.

- 5.3** The amount of any unpaid civil penalty, plus any other costs as provided in this chapter, may be declared a lien on real property where the Groundwater Extraction Facility is located. Notice shall be given to the responsible party prior to the recordation of the lien, and shall be mailed by Certified Mail to the last known address. The lien shall specify the amount of the lien, the date of the code violations, the date of the any staff or administrative decision, the street address, legal description, and assessor's parcel number of the parcel on which the lien is imposed, and the name of the owner of the parcel according to the last equalized assessment roll.

CHAPTER 6

Process for Enforcement and Appeal

- 6.1** Pursuant to the authority granted by this Ordinance and state law, a Notice of Violation shall be sent by Certified Mail to the last known address of any operator and/or owner who violates any provision of this Ordinance. Such violations include, but are not limited to, (1) failure to register a well, (2) failure to install a flowmeter, (3) failure to provide documentation of flowmeter accuracy, and (4) failure to report groundwater extractions on a quarterly basis.
- 6.2** A person to whom a Notice of Violation has been sent pursuant to Section 5.3 of Chapter 5.0 shall be liable for a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for each additional day on which the violation continues if the person fails to correct the violation within 30 days of the date that the Notice of Violation was sent by Certified Mail to the last known address.
- 6.3** Any person to whom a Notice of Violation was sent may appeal to the Board within 30 days of the date that the Notice of Violation was sent by filing with the Executive Director a written request that the Board review the decision of the Executive Director. The Board shall hold a hearing on the appeal within 120 days after all relevant information has been provided by the appellant to the satisfaction of the Executive Director.
- 6.4** Upon the failure of any person to comply with any provision of this Ordinance within 30 days after having been sent a Notice of Violation by Certified Mail to the last known address and no appeal is filed with the Executive Director as set forth in Section 6.3 of this Chapter, or after the conclusion of such an appeal, the Agency may petition the Superior Court for a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, and/or permanent injunction, or such other equitable relief as may be appropriate. The right to petition for injunctive relief is an additional right to those rights which may be provided elsewhere in this Ordinance or otherwise allowed by law.
- 6.5** The Agency may file an action in the Superior Court of the County to recover any sums due the Agency, including, but not limited to, unpaid civil penalties. Any judgment

obtained in the Superior Court of the County by the Agency may be recorded as a judgment lien on the real estate where a Groundwater Extraction Facility is located.

CHAPTER 7

Waivers

7.1. The Board may, at its own discretion, by resolution, waive any section, part, clause or phrase contained in this Ordinance as to a specific well, extraction facility, operator, or owner.

CHAPTER 8

Severability

87.1. If any section, part, clause or phrase in this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portion of this Ordinance shall not be affected but shall remain in full force and effect.

Effective Date of Ordinance. This Ordinance will take effect on the thirty-first day after adoption.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Ordinance No. 4 was duly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency as a public hearing held on the ____ day of _____, 20264, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

~~Pete Kaiser~~Jennifer Tribo, Board Chair

ATTEST:

~~Arne Anselm~~Jim Kentosh, Board Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Keith Lemieux, General Counsel
Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 11(b)

DATE: February 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: GSP Periodic Evaluation Update

SUMMARY

Summary of Work Completed Since Last Update

Summary of Technical Work

Intera continued working on preparations for the periodic evaluation, including background information review, review of Department of Water Resources (DWR) recommended corrective actions (RCAs) for the GSP, and preparation of figure and table templates.

Intera continued working in parallel to update the numerical model with data for water years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 for the annual report and periodic evaluation.

The Executive Director and Intera met in person on February 10 to review the DWR RCAs in detail and develop planned approaches to address them.

The Executive Director worked with Ventura River Water District and City of Ventura to address questions about the updated projections of future groundwater extractions reported on during January Board meeting. The Ventura River Water District values were confirmed. The City of Ventura projected extraction for wet/normal years was reduced from 4,436 acre-feet per year (AFY) to 4,268 AFY based on revised information provided by the City.

Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement

The stakeholder engagement plan update was finalized and posted to the Agency website (https://uvrgroundwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/UVRGA-Stakeholder-plan-edit-January-2025_V2_Clean.pdf).

A newsletter was published, web posted and emailed to the interested parties list (Attachment A). The newsletter introduces the GSP Periodic Evaluation and highlights the upcoming workshop.

The Executive Director reached out to the Chair of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians. UVRGA previously reached out to the prior chair during development of the GSP but did not receive a response. The current chair expressed interest and joined the Agency's interested parties email list.

Next Steps

The GSP Periodic Evaluation Workshop will be held on February 26, 2026 at 1 p.m.

The GSP Periodic Evaluation schedule is provided for reference in Attachment B.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive an update on the GSP Periodic Evaluation and provide feedback or direction to staff, if desired.

BACKGROUND

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to perform a periodic evaluation of their GSP at least once every five years. The first periodic evaluation of the UVRGA GSP is due in January 2027.

The primary purpose of the GSP periodic evaluation is to communicate to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), interested parties, and the public the progress on GSP implementation. The periodic evaluation is the GSA's written assessment concerning GSP implementation during the evaluation cycle, which, in this case, is the first 5-years of GSP implementation.

The deliverable for the GSP periodic evaluation is a periodic evaluation report. In general, the scope of the report is to provide the following information for each key GSP section:

- What new information has been collected?
- What is the status of the components of the section? Describe any changes.
- Was there a recommended corrective action associated with the section? If so, explain how it was addressed.
- How have actions taken in the section informed changes in basin management?
- Is there a need to change this section of the GSP that would lead to a GSP Amendment? If so, which section has or will be revised in the GSP Amendment?

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not Applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Newsletter
- B. GSP Periodic Evaluation Schedule

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler _ J.Palmer _ E. Ayala _ V. Sedgwick _ J. Tribo _ J. Kentosh _



<https://uvrgroundwater.org/>

Spring Newsletter

January 2026

Volume 6, Issue 1

Public Workshop

GSP Periodic Evaluation

**Thursday
February 26, 2026
1 p.m.**

This workshop will present information about the periodic evaluation of the Upper Ventura River Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. This workshop is a key opportunity ask questions and provide feedback periodic evaluation of the GSP for your groundwater basin.

Your active participation is highly encouraged!

For more information about the meeting, please visit:

<https://uvrgroundwater.org/public-meetings/>

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to perform a periodic evaluation of their Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) at least once every five years. The first periodic evaluation of the Upper Ventura River Valley Basin GSP must be submitted to the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 2027. The periodic evaluation process is underway and UVRGA is seeking your input.

The GSP periodic evaluation is intended to address the following:

- Describe new information that has been obtained since the GSP was adopted.
- Describe the status of each GSP section, including any changes and whether they impact basin management.
- Explain how GSP corrective actions provided by DWR have been addressed.
- Explain whether and how actions taken by UVRGA have informed changes to basin management.
- Describe whether there is a need to change any part of the GSP that would lead to a GSP Amendment.

Get Involved!

At the core of SGMA is the idea that locals should make groundwater management decisions, not the State. Your input is critical for ensuring that management of the Upper Ventura River Valley Basin reflects local values.

If you haven't already, please join our interested parties list at:

<https://uvrgroundwater.org/join-interested-parties-list/>

UVRGA is seeking your input during the GSP periodic evaluation process. A draft period evaluation document will be issued in fall of 2026 for public comment. The UVRGA Board of Directors are expected to adopt the periodic evaluation document no later than early January 2027. **Please join us at our first workshop on February 26, 2026. Comments may be submitted at any time during the process using UVRGA online comment submission form available on the UVRGA website at: <https://uvrgroundwater.org/sgma-overview/> (scroll to bottom of page for form). Feel free to contact us with any questions at bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org.**



Visual Streamflow Monitoring of Ventura River at Santa Ana Blvd. October 2024

Upcoming UVRGA Board Meetings

The UVRGA Board of Directors scheduled its 2026 Regular Board meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM. The next scheduled regular meeting is February 12, 2026. Special meetings are also scheduled on as-needed basis. The UVRGA Board meets at the Ventura River Water District located at 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, CA 93023.

For the latest updates concerning Board meetings, please visit: <https://uvrgroundwater.org/public-meetings/>



Ventura River at Camino Cielo April 2025

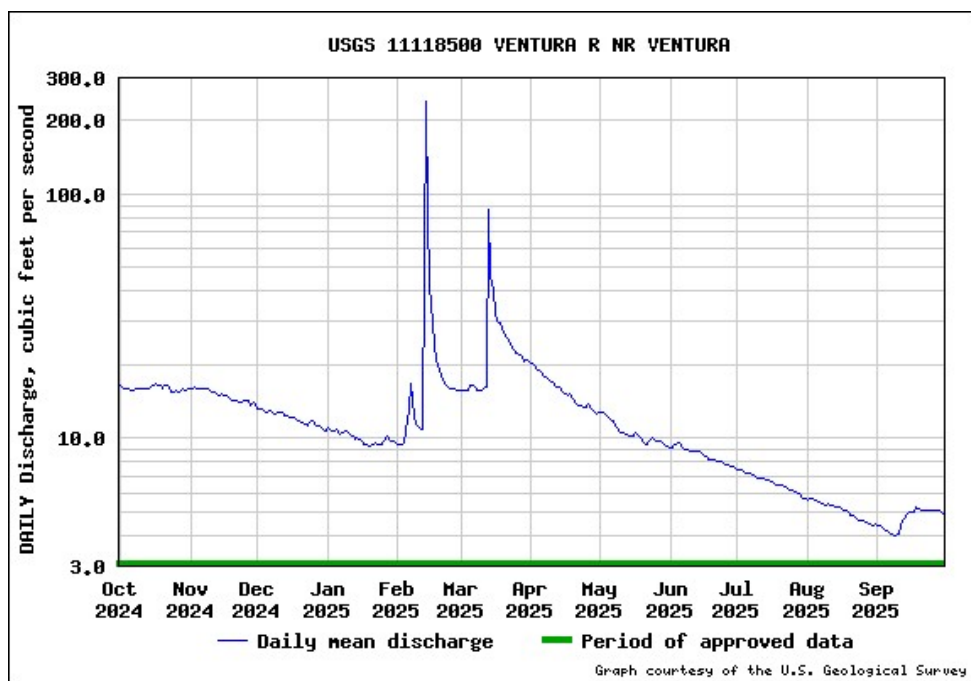
Water Year 2024/2025 Hydrology Highlights

Did you know that hydrologists use a different calendar than the rest of us? It is called the water year, which runs from October 1 through September 30. The purpose of the water year is to prevent the wet season, which can start as early as October or November, from being split across multiple years. The water year provides for improved water accounting and statistical analysis of the relationship between precipitation and streamflow.

UVRGA operates several field monitoring programs each water year. These include groundwater level monitoring in seventeen wells located throughout the basin, streamflow monitoring at three locations on the Ventura River, visual monitoring of Ventura River streamflow, periodic aquatic habitat mapping, fish stranding and mortality surveys, habitat suitability surveys, snorkel surveys, water quality monitoring, and aerial and ground photography in the two aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystem areas identified in the GSP. The data are used to inform GSP implementation.

Water Year 2024/2025 was drier than average, with 9.19 inches of rainfall measured at Ventura River Water District, as compared with the base period average of 22.15 inches. The wet season began dry and remained so until February and March when 5.50 and 2.22 inches of the rainfall were received, respectively.

Water Year 2024/2025 followed two consecutive wet years, Water Years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024, which received 47.41 and 30.37 inches of precipitation, respectively. Given the antecedent wet conditions, Water Year 2024/2025 began with higher than normal streamflow, but limited rainfall resulted in declining flows from late March the remainder of the water year.



**Water Year 2024/2025 Ventura River Discharge at Foster Park
(Note streamflow (y-axis) is a logarithmic scale)**

UVRGA's annual monitoring data summaries are available on our website at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/library/>.

GSP Periodic Evaluation Schedule

Project Milestone	Date	Comment
Periodic Evaluation Kickoff	December 2025	
Workshop No. 1	February 26, 2026	Topic: What is a GSP Periodic Evaluation Report and Why is UVRGA Preparing It?
Workshop No. 2	May 2026	If necessary. If any significant issues that could change basin management are discovered, these will be presented so that stakeholder feedback can be obtained.
Incorporate Results of Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of ISW Action Nos. 1-6 and 1-7	July 2026	
Workshop No. 3	August or September 2026	Topic: Summary of draft GSP Periodic Evaluation Report.
Board Approval to Release Public Draft Periodic Evaluation Report	September 2026	
45-day Public Comment Period	September-October 2026	
Publish Response to Comments and Final Draft Periodic Evaluation Report	November 2026	
Board Adoption of Periodic Evaluation Report	December 2026	
Submittal to DWR	January 2027	

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 11(c)

DATE: February 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Field Monitoring Programs Update

SUMMARY

The Executive Director and Rincon Consultants will provide presentations summarizing data collected under the groundwater level, streamflow, and groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) monitoring programs during water year 2024/2025. The presentation will also address the three year review of aquatic GDE monitoring program.

Annual monitoring memoranda for water year 2024/2025, including the three year review of the aquatic GDE monitoring program, are available on the UVRGA website at:

<https://uvrgroundwater.org/library/>.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Receive a presentation concerning results from the water year 2024/2025 field monitoring programs and three year review of the aquatic GDE monitoring program. The Board may provide feedback to staff concerning the monitoring programs.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

None

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler _ J.Palmer _ E. Ayala _ V. Sedgwick _ J. Tribo _ J. Kentosh _

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 11(d)

DATE: February 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Indirect Depletion Modeling Approach

SUMMARY

The GSP includes a management action called “Actions to Address Indirect Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water (ISW),” which consists of a sequence of actions that are designed to lead to implementation of a project or management action that addresses significant and unreasonable indirect depletions of ISW. In general, the path includes (1) addressing the groundwater level data gaps that impact quantification of indirect depletions of ISW, (2) updating to the numerical flow model to provide better quantify indirect depletion, and (3) using the updated model to prepare updated estimates of indirect depletions (4) developing appropriately sized projects or management actions to address indirect depletions. Action No. 4 would include additional modeling to explore the relationship between the quantity and timing of groundwater extractions and indirect depletions to inform potential management approaches.

Actions Nos. 1 and 2 have been completed and Action No. 3 (updating indirect depletion estimates) is in progress. Action No. 4 (developing projects or management actions) will begin with additional modeling to develop a quantitative understanding of the relationships between the quantity, timing, and location of groundwater pumping and indirect depletion of interconnected surface water. The purpose of this item is to present a proposed approach for this modeling exercise.

The proposed approach is a three-step process that builds on the results from Action No. 3 (updates to indirect depletion estimates), as follows.

Step No. 1: Review Updated Depletion Estimates to Identify Specific Indirect Depletion Event(s) For Detailed Analysis

Attachment A shows the indirect depletion estimates from the adopted GSP, which are in the process of being updated. Attachment A is provided for reference to explain the proposed evaluation approach.

The lower chart in Attachment A shows 8 numbered ISW depletion events that cause GSP minimum threshold exceedances. For each numbered event, two lines, blue and black, are shown. The blue line is the simulated ISW *direct* depletion cause by City of Ventura groundwater extractions. The black line is the *total* simulated ISW depletion caused by groundwater extractions from the Basin (i.e., total depletion = direct depletion + indirect depletion). Therefore, the difference (or space) between the blue and black lines is the magnitude of simulated ISW *indirect* depletion. The update version of this graph will include a third line to show indirect depletion explicitly.

The simulated depletion events will be reviewed and categorized according to differences in antecedent hydrologic conditions, groundwater pumping, depletion event duration and magnitude. Based on this review, one or more depletion events will be selected from the updated depletion graph detailed modeling analysis to assess impact of timing and location of pumping that contribute to the indirect depletion component of the depletion event(s).

Step No. 2: Detailed Modeling Analysis of Selected Depletion Event(s) to Quantify the Impact of Location and Timing of Groundwater Pumping on Indirect Depletion.

Groups of wells located upstream of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area will be identified for the analysis. Three well groups are recommended for this preliminary analysis (1) Meiners Oaks Water District (MOWD) wells, (2) Ventura River Water District (VRWD) wells, (4) MOWD and VRWD wells and (4) Casitas MWD's Mira Monte well plus all non-*de minimis* private wells located upstream of the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area.

The model will be run multiple times for each group of wells for each selected depletion event. Each model run will progressively eliminate one month of pumping from the well group starting with the last month of the depletion event and going backward in time until no change in depletion quantity observed. For example, if the selected depletion event occurred from July 2030 until March 2031, the modeling process would begin with a model run no MOWD pumping in March 2031. The second run would remove MOWD pumping in March and February 2031. Subsequent model runs would sequentially remove another month of MOWD pumping until no effect on depletion is observed on the model results. The modeling process would repeat using VRWD wells, then MOWD + VRWD wells, and lastly the group no. wells.

The results the output from the model runs will be processed to quantify the effect pumping in different with different lead times on indirect depletion in the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area.

Step No. 3: Proposal for Further Analysis (if needed).

The Step No. 2 results are anticipated to provide an initial understanding of the relationship between timing and location of upstream pumping on ISW indirect depletion in the Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area. These initial results will be presented to the Board and public together with recommendations for additional analysis, if warranted.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Review a proposed approach to assessing the relationship between timing and location of groundwater pumping on indirect depletions of interconnected surface water and provide feedback to staff.

BACKGROUND

Please see summary.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Intera is already authorized to perform this work.

ATTACHMENTS

A. GSP Depletion Estimates Figure

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser_ B. Kuebler_ J.Palmer_ E. Ayala_ V. Sedgwick_ J. Tribo_ J. Kentosh_

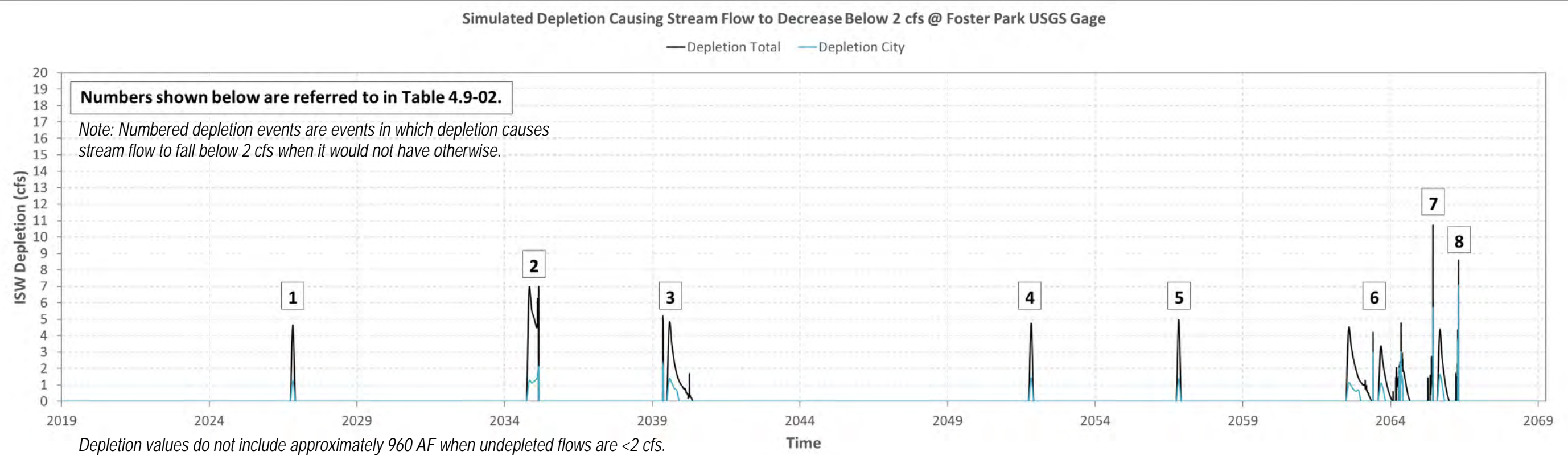
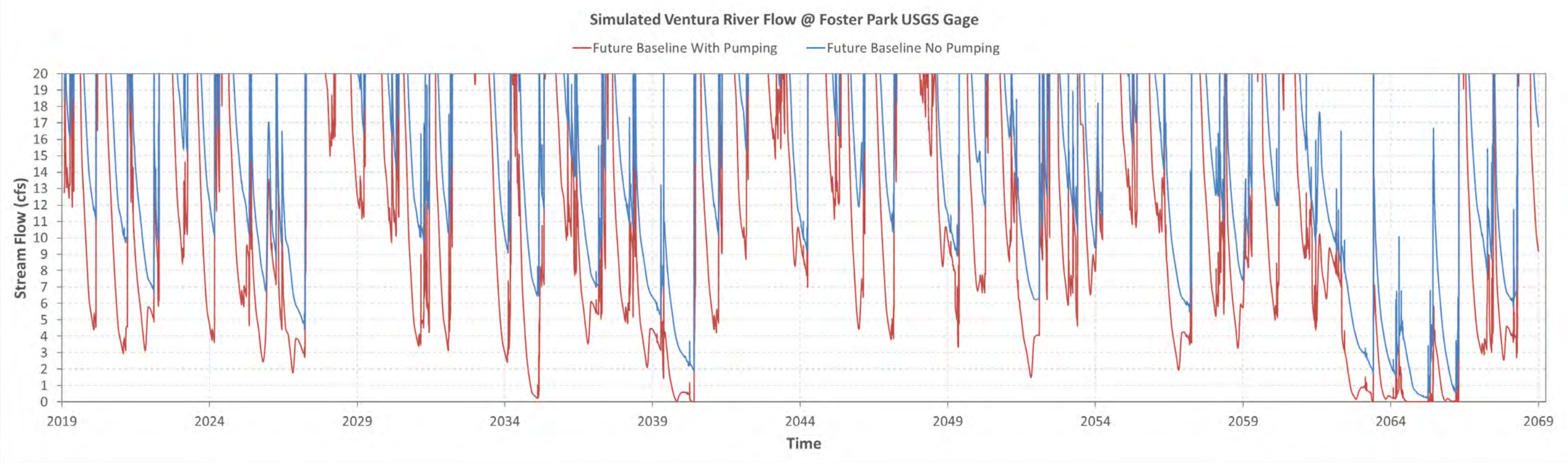


Figure 4.9-03 Foster Park Aquatic Habitat Area Simulated Streamflow and Depletion.

The term depletion refers to the direct or indirect reduction of stream flow resulting from groundwater extraction. Please see Section 3.2.6 for further description of direct versus indirect reductions (depletions) of surface water.

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 11(e)

DATE: February 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Technical Review of Watershed Party Proposals to Ensure Consistency With GSP

SUMMARY

The Parties involved in the Ventura River litigation have been working over the past several years to develop a watershed wide solution (Physical Solution) to resolve the litigation. At a recent hearing, the Judge requested that any proposals be submitted to the Court by April 10, 2026. Following the hearing, watershed parties contacted the Executive Director to provide technical review of preliminary proposals in order to ensure consistency with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The watershed parties would like to initiate technical review now as not to cause further delays once the documents are shared with the Court. Review is expected to occur primarily over the next month and is not expected to exceed 20 hours. The Executive Director will provide an update on his time spent and high-level outcomes of his review at the March meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Chair Tribo recommends Executive Director technical review of Watershed Party Proposals to ensure consistency with the GSP.

BACKGROUND

Please see summary.

FISCAL SUMMARY

If the review takes 20 hours, then it will cost approximately \$4,700 of the executive director's time. The annual budget includes \$36,750 for groundwater management, coordination, and outreach, which is applicable to this work.

ATTACHMENTS

None

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser_ B. Kuebler_ J.Palmer_ E. Ayala_ V. Sedgwick_ J. Tribo_ J. Kentosh_

UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY Item No. 13(a)

DATE: February 13, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Civil Penalty Accrual Rate for Remaining Unregistered Wells

SUMMARY

Two wells remain unregistered despite extensive outreach efforts. UVRGA has been accruing civil penalties for unregistered wells on June 1, 2024. The civil penalty accrual rate was initially set by the Board at \$10/day and was increased to \$20/day effective November 1, 2024 and again to \$100/day effective March 1, 2025. As two wells remain unregistered, the Board may consider another increase to the daily civil penalty accrual rate to incentivize compliance.

Details concerning the unregistered wells are as follows:

State Well No. 04N23W32G01S

An initial response from the well owner to UVRGA's well registration notifications was made on May 22, 2024 in the form of a cease and desist letter. Agency counsel responded to the owner's cease and desist letter on July 25, 2024 and sent follow-up letters on February 28, 2025 and November 3, 2025. A partially completed registration form was received on December 9, 2025 from one the well owner's attorney. The Executive Director communicated the deficiencies to the attorney on December 11, 2025. The Executive Director followed up with the attorney on December 29, 2025 and January 9, 2026 and no response has been received. Agency Counsel sent a letter directly to the well owner on January 10, 2026 notifying him of the Agency's intent to take further action against him for failure to register the well.

State Well No. 04N23W03F01S

No communication from the well owner has been received to date despite numerous attempts to make contact. Numerous letters have been mailed to the well owner at their physical and mailing addresses and physical postings have been made at the property. Agency Counsel sent a letter on November 10, 2025. Lastly, the Executive Director obtained the owners phone number and attempted multiple calls and voicemail in January 2026. No return call has been received.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Not applicable. The Agency does not budget civil penalties.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Consider increasing the civil penalty accrual rate for the two remaining unregistered water wells.

BACKGROUND

The Groundwater Well Registration, Metering, and Extraction Reporting Ordinance was adopted on July 14, 2022 and became effective August 14, 2022. The Ordinance was amended twice (Ordinance Nos. 2 on July 14, 2022 and Ordinance No. 3 on July 13, 2023) and replaced in its entirety (Ordinance No. 4) on November 14, 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Action: _____

Motion: _____

P. Kaiser _ B. Kuebler _ E. Ayala _ V. Sedgwick _ J. Tribo _ J. Kentosh _ J. Palmer _